~~7. (Twice Amended) In a vehicle detector which senses presence of a~~ vehicle with an inductive sensor, a method comprising:

measuring inductance of a dummy sensor which is ~~unaffected~~ by the presence of a vehicle;

comparing a currently measured inductance of the dummy sensor to a previously measured inductance of ~~the~~ [same] dummy sensor; and

determining, based upon the comparison of the currently and previously measured dummy sensor inductances, a change therebetween, and since the inductance thereof ~~is unaffected~~ by vehicles, recognizing the [a said] change as due to temperature ~~or humidity [indicative of an environmental factor unrelated to the inductive sensor]~~.

In claim 8, line 10, before "inductance" please insert therefor --an--; line 20, please delete "a said" and insert therefor --the--; line 21, please delete "indication" and insert therefor --indicative--; lines 21-22, please delete "an environmental" and insert therefor --a--; line 25, please delete "unrelated to the inductive sensor" and insert therefor --not caused by a vehicle--.

~~9. (Thrice Amended) In a vehicle detector of a type in which a first~~ threshold rate of change in inductance of an inductive sensor indicates ~~vehicle~~ presence, a method of identifying changes in the inductance of the inductive sensor [A method for identifying changes in measured inductance of an inductive sensor used with a vehicle detector, which inductive sensor changes inductance in response to presence of a said vehicle, but which indentified changes are determined not to be caused by vehicles, and are, therefore,] caused by mechanical difficulties rather than by ~~a vehicle [requiring maintenance]~~, the method comprising:

~~setting~~ a second threshold rate of change in inductance of the inductive sensor that is indicative of mechanical difficulties, wherein the second threshold rate of change is greater than the first threshold rate of change;

measuring the inductance of the inductive sensor over a plurality of measurement frame segments;

calculating a time rate of change of inductance of the inductive sensor; and

identifying existence of mechanical difficulties when the time rate of change of inductance calculated is at least equal to the second threshold rate of change [in a predetermined range outside a threshold rate of change associated with vehicular ~~movement~~].

In claim 10, lines 6-7, please delete "are, therefore," and insert therefor --are--; line 12, please delete "the rate" and insert therefor --a rate--; line 13, please delete "sensor drive".

In claim 13, lines 8-9, please delete "reflect slow changes" and insert therefor --compensate for drift--; lines 9-10, please delete "caused by environmental factors"; line 14, please delete "the" and insert therefor --an--.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 2, 5-10 and 13 have been amended. Claim 1-13 are pending.